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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D. C., August 13, 1946.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, during the fiscal year 1947, was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Tuesday, August 13, 1946. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Reinhard,
Mr. Murphy,
Mr. Lawrie,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of a meeting held on June 21, 1946, were approved.

2. PAN AMERICAN ANNEX, LANDSCAPE PLAN: Chairman Clarke called attention to the following letter received from Mr. John F. Harbeson, of the firm of Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson, Architects, 1510 Architects Building, Philadelphia:

July 29, 1946.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

We enclose a print of drawing showing treatment proposed for the plaza between the Pan American Administration building and the Interior Department Building, along the lines suggested by the Fine Arts Commission. The next time Mr. Clarke is in town will you ask him for his comment? We will then make a drawing to present in regular fashion to The Fine Arts Commission.

We believe this scheme will screen the necessary service court from traffic on Virginia Avenue, and keep a fairly open grassy space surrounded by trees with two big trees flanking the axis of the Interior Department.

With best wishes,
Sincerely yours,
John F. Harbeson.

The Secretary brought a copy of the reply sent by the Chairman and design to the attention of the Commission. The Commission considered the design and thought the answer sent to Mr. Harbeson by the Chairman, accepting the design as preliminary, was satisfactory (Exhibit A).

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The Secretary brought a copy of the reply sent by the Chairman and design to the attention of the Commission. The Commission considered the design thought the answer sent to Mr. Harbeson by the Chairman, accepting the design as preliminary, was satisfactory (Exhibit A).

3. PROPOSED WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FROM FRANCE FOR NEW YORK CITY: Under date of July 26th a design was submitted by Brigadier General Thomas N. North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, with letter (Exhibit B) stating that this memorial was being offered as a gift to the United States from France.

The Secretary had sent a copy of the correspondence and print of the design to each of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Aldrich reported that he considered the design unsatisfactory, as did also Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Sterne. Mr. Sterne said further that it might look well as a gadget on a desk but in enlarged form it would be grotesque.

The Commission considered the design and felt a memorial as this would be unsatisfactory. The letter sent by Chairman Clarke disapproving the design was unanimously confirmed (Exhibit C).

4. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY: Under date of June 27th Mr. Donald DeLue, President of the National Sculpture Society, sent a letter to Chairman Clarke (Exhibit D) protesting against the way the American Battle Monuments Commission had published information regarding World War I Memorials in their publication entitled American Battlefields in Europe by omitting the names of artists.

A copy of the book was examined, and it was noted that while the name of the architect was given in several instances, the name of the sculptor and landscape architect was omitted.

The Commission designated Mr. Lawrie to draft an appropriate letter to be sent to The American Battle Monuments Commission, together with copy of the letter from Mr. DeLue (Exhibit E)

3. PROPOSED WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TREE TRAMPS RUN NEW YORK CITY: Under date of July 26th a design was submitted by Brigadier General Thomas N. North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, with letter (Exhibit B) stating that this memorial was being offered as a gift to the United States from France.

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The Commission considered the design and felt a memorial as this would be unsatisfactory. The letter sent by Chairman Clarke disapproving the design was unanimously confirmed (Exhibit C).

4. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY: Under date of June 27th Mr. Donald Deine, President of the National Sculpture Society, sent a letter to Chairman Clarke (Exhibit D) protesting against the way the American Battle Monuments Commission had published information regarding World War I Memorials in their publication entitled American Battlefields in Europe by omitting the names of artists.

A copy of the book was examined, and it was noted that while the name of the architect was given in several instances, the name of the sculptor and landscape architect was omitted.

The Commission designated Mr. Lawrie to draft an appropriate letter to be sent to The American Battle Monuments Commission, together with copy of the letter from Mr. Deine (Exhibit E)

5. REPORT ON WAR MEMORIALS: The Secretary reported that Senator Barkley had secured the consent of the United States Senate to print the Report on War Memorials, adopted by the Commission of Fine Arts on May 14th, as a Senate Document (No.234), together with illustrations (Exhibit F).

The Commission felt the illustrations should suggest types of memorials by American artists, and selected from 12 to 15 illustrating a bridge, flagpole, tablet, plaque, fountain, memorial window, chapel, gates, column, carillon tower, portrait statue, relief, monument, etc. The Secretary was authorized to proceed with having the document printed.

6. BILLBOARD ON TREASURY DEPARTMENT GROUNDS: The Chairman stated that, having seen a notice in Planning and Civic Comment for July, 1946, protesting against a large billboard on the Treasury Department Grounds at the head of Pennsylvania Avenue, as being an eyesore that should be removed, he had written to the Secretary of the Treasury asking that this be done.

Chairman Clarke stated that the American Planning and Civic Association and the Commission of Fine Arts have for years tried to have that sign taken down, though the Commission yielded to a request from the Treasury Department to have it remain during the War period. The Chairman read a letter from Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, dated August 12th, saying the sign would be removed in December of this year (Exhibit G). A letter of appreciation was sent to him (Exhibit G-1).

7. STATUE OF GENERAL JOSE GERVASIO ARIGAS, OF URUGUAY: Under date of June 28th a letter was received from the Department of State (Exhibit H) advising as to the offer of this statue in exchange of one of George Washington.

Chairman Clarke stated that he acknowledged receipt of the letter and that the Commission would await a photograph of the statue (Exhibit H-1).

8. EXTENSION OF EAST FRONT OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL: Chairman Clarke called attention to Senate Bill 2505, "To provide for the extension and completion of the United States Capitol," introduced by Senator Andrew, of Florida, on August 2, 1946 (Exhibit I). Also he read the report made by Senator Andrews on the subject (Exhibit I-1).

The Commission discussed the subject. Chairman Clarke stated that the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts concerning the matter was requested about the year 1937, and it may be taken up when the next Congress convenes. The Commission expressed the desire to see the model illustrating the proposed extension, which is in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, at the next meeting of the Commission.

9. VETERANS' HOSPITAL, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA: In accordance with letter received from Major General U. S. Grant III (Retired), Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Exhibit J), a conference was held with representatives of that Commission, the Joint Committee on the National Capital of the American Planning and Civic Association, a representative of the Veterans' Administration, and a representative of the Federal Board of Hospitalization, regarding the location of a Veterans' Hospital on the Nevius tract north of and adjacent to the Arlington National Cemetery. General Grant, Mr. Demaray (members), Mr. Settle, Mr. Nolen, Mr. Partridge, and Mr. Jeffers, represented the Park and Planning Commission; Mr. Zantzinger, Mr. Peaslee, Mr. Boss, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Purvis and Mr. Opperman, the Joint Committee on the National Capital; Mr. J.J. Rockefellera, Director of Construction, of the Veterans' Administration; and Mr. Frank Bennett, Director, the Federal Board of Hospitalization.

General Grant explained the purpose of the conference, pointing out that for 14 years attempts have been made through legislation introduced in

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General Grant explained the purpose of the conference, pointing out that for 14 years attempts have been made through legislation introduced in

Congress to buy the Nevius tract, and passed the Senate but failed of passage in the House of Representatives. Both the Commission of Fine Arts and the Park and Planning Commission are on record as preferring no building on the site. It comprises 25 acres and would be a desirable addition to the Arlington National Cemetery, while at the same time preserve the wooded area on Arlington Heights as a background for the Mall. Now that legislation has failed, an apartment project for the site is under way, wherefore it would be much more desirable to have the area in Government control with a hospital on it, suitably designed, of course, for the location.

Mr. Rockefeller then explained that their Board picked that site after inspection of several possible sites in and near the District of Columbia, but prefers it because of its proximity to the George Washington University Hospital and Medical School and the Georgetown University Hospital and Medical School, as well as to Government hospitals. It is to contain 750 beds, a minimum requirement. He showed a tentative sketch, which the members of both Commissions and of the Joint Committee disapproved; they thought it looked worse than an apartment building. Mr. Rockefeller said it was simply a suggestion.

Chairman Clarke, speaking for the Commission of Fine Arts, stated that he confirmed what General Grant had said about preserving that tract as a green background for the Central Mall Area, and had hoped it would become a part of Arlington National Cemetery. The erection of an apartment on the site is to be deplored, and "we all feel that the tract would be in good hands if it was under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration. We hope that we might be able to cooperate with your architect to the end that what is put there is the least obtrusive that is possible under the circumstances, as viewed from the central area of the Mall. We realize that the building is going to be seen, there is no question about that, but if we had to make a choice in the matter between

an apartment house and the Veterans' Hospital, there isn't much question that we would select the hospital."

Mr. Rockefeller felt there would be the desired cooperation in the preparation of the design. He said the "job" is turned over by the Veterans' Administration to the Office of the Corps of Engineers, who attend to the designing and the Veterans' Administration checks on their work. Mr. Peaslee said that he felt certain the new Chief of Engineers, Lieut. Gen. Wheeler, would cooperate whole-heartedly since he is interested in the National Capital.

Mr. Reinhard said "I think we should go on record that the architect in this particular site should be limited and controlled." Mr.Clarke concurred.

Mr. Rockefeller somewhat objected to limiting the freedom of the architect, and suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of General Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of the Veterans' Administration.

Mr. Lantzinger said the Joint Committee on the National Capital is opposed to having any building erected on that site, in order to preserve the Mall axis, "on which our Government has spent millions of dollars through the years . . . which is the greatest Mall in the world in any municipality anywhere." He said the Joint Committee would concur in the conclusion reached by the two Commissions; if that is final; that it is better to place the tract in the control of the Veterans' Bureau, and thus the Government, rather than have a large apartment built there.

Mr. Peaslee said that if the problem is to be settled by compromise there should be concessions both ways, and he recommended that a directive be issued by the two Commissions "which might tie the hands of the architect who is selected for this work,-that directive being the incorporation of an expressions of the opinion of these two Commissions as to the character of the building. . . "I am wondering why the Commission might not express itself in favor of a spread-out composition, even an unsymmetrical composition, which would tend

to use that space and keep the buildings somewhat lower."

Mr. Rockefeller said he probably had made a mistake in showing the sketch, which caused Mr. Reinhard to remark "Unless you have the architect controlled, that is what is going to happen."

Mr. Rockefeller replied, "I can say this, that when we make this approach to the Corps of Engineers, I shall make it a point to bring out the fact that the building should be held down in design. As to what the limitations should be, I would like to let the architect come in with his preliminary ideas for a starter and then we can see what he has and blend it, and if it is considered too high, we will ask him to tell us why he can't lower it, and if he can, we will ask him to take it down."

Mr. Frank Bennett, Director of the Federal Board of Hospitalization, said his Board is composed of the four Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, Public Health, and Veterans' Administration, together with two other members, charged with the responsibility of deciding on scope, location, type of hospital, and the sites which are selected throughout the country. A Veterans' Hospital is much needed in the Washington area and a 750 bed hospital is proposed. He said it will not be large enough, but the Board, if the site is acquired, would not expect to expand on that site.

Mr. Stevenson, President of the American Society of Landscape Architects, urged a directive that would limit the architect in this particular instance. He said he would hate to see the site destroyed.

Mr. Bennett replied that the Veterans' Administration would want to build something appropriate, a national monument. Mr. Clarke suggested a building of "the most suitable architecture to the site," and Mr. Bennett agreed.

Mr. Clarke said further that any agreement as to building a hospital on this site would have to be qualified, namely, that the two Commissions

be consulted as to an architect and as to type of building. Mr. Bennett suggested a conference with General Bradley to settle this matter.

Mr. Boss, representing the National Real Estate Association, suggested using a 75 acre tract known as Arlington Hall, which the Government owns in Arlington County, Virginia.

It was thereupon decided to make a trip of inspection. The location was viewed from the base of the Washington Monument and from the Water Gate near the Lincoln Memorial. It was realized that unless a building on that site be moderate in height and screened by trees it would be an ugly terminus to the Mall axis.

While at the location, Mr. Nevins, owner of the tract, was present and said he has owned the land for more than 20 years and now a corporation has been formed to build x 10 twelve-story apartment buildings on the 25 acre tract, and a 900 room hotel across Lee Boulevard, north of the tract. That 6,000 persons will be housed in the development. He said the site is being leased under a 99 year lease, and that the ground is worth $5.00 a square foot. He is not in favor of building a hospital there, and said neither are the Arlington County authorities, because they do not want to be deprived of revenue which will amount to several hundred thousand dollars a year if the apartment and hotel projects are carried out.

During a brief afternoon session it was agreed that a joint letter, signed by the Chairman of each Commission, be sent to General Bradley, setting forth the conclusions reached, and suggesting a conference with him.

(The conference was held on Thursday afternoon, August 18th, at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Murphy was present and spoke for the Commission of Fine Arts; also Mr. Casemerer was present. General Bradley agreed to securing an architect who would cooperate and to aim to keep the building inconspicuous. Gen. Grant recommended a six-story building and that the 7 acre hotel site be also bought. General Bradley said he could not give an answer to those two items without consulting his Board) (Exhibit J and J-1)

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, N. Y.

August 2, 1946.

Dear Mr. Harbeson:

Mr. Caemmerer forwarded me your letter of the 29th of July with a print of the location plan for the Pan American Union Administration Building.

It is my judgment that the scheme you have shown is satisfactory, particularly with respect to the location of the major trees and the otherwise simple treatment of the grounds areas. When it comes time to prepare a study of the planting in more detail, the character and arrangement of the low planting masses may be determined more carefully. It may well be that these masses may be very much simplified.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Mr. John Harbeson
Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson
1510 Architects Building
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Exhibit A

Exhibit A

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
Established by Congress, March 1923

John J. Pershing, Chairman
Robert G. Woodside, Vice Chairman — David A. Reed
D. John Markey — Finis J. Garrett
Mrs. Henry Fenimore Baker — Leslie L. Biffle
Brig. Gen. Thomas North, Secretary

Washington 25
July 26, 1946.

Commission of Fine Arts,

Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith are copies of correspondence and drawings concerning a proposed memorial, for which the funds were collected by public subscription in France, to be erected at Fort Wadsworth, New York.

The Commission would appreciate the views of the Fine Arts Commission as to the propriety of the erection of this memorial and the suitability of its design.

Inquiries are being made of the War Department as to the eventual availability of the desired site.

Yours very truly,

Thomas North

THOMAS NORTH
Brigadier General, USA,
Secretary.

Exhibit B

August 1, 1946.

Brigadier General Thomas North, U.S.A.
Secretary
The American Battle Monuments Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General North:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 26th with enclosed copies of correspondence and drawings of a memorial proposed to be erected at Fort Wadsworth, New York.

The Commission of Fine Arts would regret to see this proposed memorial erected any plance in the United States. In our considered opinion it is grotesquely ugly and hence merits no consideration whatsoever.

Yours very truly,

FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Exhibit C

Exhibit C

NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY
1083 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

June 27, 1946.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

President Harry S. Truman, by his Executive Order 9704 of March 15, 1946. ordered that the American Battle Monuments Commission shall control as to materials and designs and provide regulations and supervise the erection of all memorials, monuments and buildings in American Cemeteries located outside of the United States. The Executive Order specified functions of the Battle Monuments Commission, but did not refer to the Act of Congress of 1925 creating that Commission and providing that all designs for War Memorials must have approval of "The National Commission of Fine Arts" (stat. p. 1509).

It has come to our attention that the designers of War Memorials erected after World War I, under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission of that period, have received little credit and that in some cases the Commission did not permit the signature of the architect or sculptor to appear on his work.

Two forms of information have been made available to the American public by the Commission. The more important is the book prepared and published by the Commission "American Armies and Battlefields in Europe" printed and sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at $s.75 each and now out-or-print and in consequence generally inaccesible as a source of information except in certain Public Libraries.

While it is not possible to secure a copy unless by chance, the National Commission of Fine Arts doubtless has copy or copies in its files. We would ask that reference be made for confirmation of our findings that:

(a) Page 472 etswq. show illustrations varying from good to very fine with map and with generalized remarks about all American mumorials erected in Europe. The Comments are formal and impersonal and the adjectives employed have no specific bearing on the memorials described. Such expressions as "This is a Beautiful Fountain", Architectural Gem", "Crowning Feature is a Bronze American Indian Releasing an American Eagle", "A Model of this Figure won a Gold Medal during a recent American Competition" - (by whom, where and when and what gold medal not specified), were employed.

(b) No where does the name of the architect, the landscape architect or the sculptor appear in direct connection with the illustrative material or in any place other than the not readily found listing among the back pages. The listing of the Battlefields and Memorials in Cimeteries is even here unclear to anyone who is not familiar with these battlefield cemeteries.

(c) Furthermore, no mention is made of whether monuments or memorials are signed and dated.

(d) On page 528, the architects and sculptors are listed but no mention is made of the contrubution of the landscape architects whose inspiration provided the superb setting for chapels and memorials and gave grandeur to the burial sites of the geroic dead.

The only printed information at present available to the public, covering the Commission's work in Europe after World War I, is an illustrated folder sent on request

Exhibit D

NATIONAL COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
1800 F Street, N.W., Washington 25, D. C.

Telephone: NAtional 8-7223

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

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Furthermore, no mention is made of whether monuments or memorials are signed or dated.

On page 528, the architects and sculptors are listed but no mention is made of contribution of the impressive architects whose inspiration provided the setting for chapels and memorials and gave grandeur to the burial areas of the Cemeteries.

The only printed information at present available to the public, covering the Commission's work in Europe after World War I, is an illustrated leaflet on request

from the Washington Office of the Commission. No reference is made therein to the architects, landscape architects or sculptors whose coordinated inspiration and work made possible these magnificent cemeteries. Statistically, it is an informative folder, but it is disappointing to read the following final paragraph:

> "Although originally established by the War Department, the Cemeteries are now under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which has brought them to their present state of architectural development. The Commission planned and erected the chapels and memorials described in this folder and is charged with their maintenance."

As soon as national boundaries are established and battlefields are delimited, the American Battle Monuments Commission will be calling for the finest expression of American patriotism and culture in Architecture and Sculpture. It seems reasonable to believe that the Commission will not object to proper attribution in each case to landscape architects, architects and sculptors in all public printed records so that posterity may not be uninformed. A proposal to the Commission to assure this and to correct any such oversight in past monuments would seem to be in order, especially as to tablets with names and dates which are lacking in some instances.

A new edition of the back "America Armies and Battlefields in Europe" may be contemplated by the Commission and when the present supply of folders is exhausted another printing will doubtless be undertaken. Would this be an appropriate time for the National Commission of Fine Arts, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Sculpture Society to recommend that an illustrated work be prepared covering only the memorials as works present book combining the history of World War I with its reverses and its victories? The book as now suggested would thus contain perhaps less than 100 pages as against 600 pages in "American Armies and Battlefields in Europe" and could be edited by men of distinction in each field.

The regretted passing of Mr. Cret might provide the immediate reason for approaching the American Battle Monuments Commission with such a plan so that his large contribution after World War I would receive proper acknowledgment.

Sincerely yours,

Donald De Lue

Donald De Lue
President

Sincerely yours,

Donald De Lue

Donald De Lue
President

LETTER TO BE SENT

(Exibit E)

EXTRACT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
United States Senate
July 5, 1946, page 8428

REPORT OF FINE ARTS COMMISSION ON WAR MEMORIALS

(S. DOC. NO. 234)

MR. BARKLEY: Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed as a Senate document a report on War Memorials, adopted by the National Commission of Fine Arts at a meeting held on May 14, 1946, including a letter addressed to me by Mr. Casemerer, the Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT pro tempore. Within objection, it is so ordered.

Exhibit F

Exhibit 1

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Interior Department Building
Washington

July 2, 1946.

My Dear Senator Barkley:

The Commission of Fine Arts have requested me to bring to your attention their Report on War Memorials, a copy of which is enclosed. There are also enclosed several photographs suggestive of types of War Memorials mentioned in the Report.

Ever since V-J Day the subject of War Memorials has become one of increasing importance. There is a nation-wide interest in having memorials erected to commemorate World War II. The Commission, therefore, believe that it would be of real assistance to committees and others concerned with War Memorials to have printed copies of this Report with illustrations. The Commission rendered valuable services in connection with War Memorials after World War I, and similarly offer their services now so that appropriate memorials may be secured to commemorate World War II. The Report suggests a method of procedure, which is usually the first problem of memorial committees.

The Commission would be very grateful to you if you would secure authority to have the Report printed, with illustrations, as a Senate Document.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Alben W, Barkley, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

THE CHANCELLOR OF FILM ARTS

Director Department Building
Washington

July 2, 1926.

My dear Director Bentley:

The Commission of Film Arts has requested me to bring to your attention their Report on War Memorials, a copy of which is enclosed. There are also enclosed several photographic reproductions of types of War Memorials mentioned in the Report.

After close 4-1 Day the subject of War Memorials has become an of increasing importance. There is a feeling-wide interest in having memorials erected to commemorate World War II. The Commission, therefore, believes that it would be of real assistance to everyone and others concerned with War Memorials to have printed copies of this Report with illustrations. The Commission rendered valuable services in connection with War Memorials after World War I, and similarly other services can be of great significance memorials may be erected to commemorate World War II. The Report suggests a method of procedure which is really the first problem of memorial committees.

The Commission would be very grateful to you if you would exercise authority to have the Report printed, with illustrations, as a Senate Document.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Alvin T. Bentley, Chairman,
Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
Washington

Aug 12, 1946.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 20, addressed to former Secretary Vinson, concerning the billboard by the south side of the Treasury building.

As you observed, the board was erected during the war. Former Secretary Morgenthau considered it an important item in calling attention to War Loan Drives, although he was personally not in favor, nor am I, of a display which might be considered unsightly.

The wartime purpose of the board has passed, but it is still essential to direct public attention to Savings Bonds in a forceful yet dignified manner. With our former volanteer force of six million bond salesmen largely dissipated, and the danger of inflation still great, it is most important to keep the Savings Bond message before the public, especially in the capital city.

This fall, from about November 11 through December 7, the Treasury will conduct its second peacetime, peak promotion of Savings Bonds, through which period the board will continue to be most useful. At the conclusion of this drive in December, we will make arrangements for the removal of the board.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN E SNYDER
Secretary of the treasury

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Exhibit G

Exhibit G

August 16, 1946.

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 12th, advising that the billboard by the south side of the Treasury Department building will be removed in the month of December of this year.

I brought your letter to the attention of The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on August 13th, and they wish me to express to you their appreciation of your action in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Honorable John W. Snyder,

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

August 16, 1946.

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Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Honorable John W. Snyder,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

Department of State
Washington

In reply refer to
ILI

June 28, 1946

My dear Mr. Clarke:

The Department has received information from the Embassy in Uruguay that that country wishes to present to the city of Washington a bronze statue of the Uruguayan hero General Jose Gervasio Artigas.

According to the information received the sculpture is approximately thirteen feet high is by the Uruguayan sculptor Juan Manuel Blanes. Replicas of this statue are in several Uruguayan towns while others have been donated to the cities of Asuncion and Caracas.

The Embassy's report request that an appropriate sculpture of George Washington be sent in return to the city of Montevideo. The Department is investigating the possibilities of securing a suitable peace of sculpture to be donated to the city of Montevideo should such an exchange take place. A request for photographs of the Artigas statue is being sent to Montevideo.

The Department would be pleased to receive any comments you might be able to make regarding the problem, in principle, of accepting this sculpture. When the photographs of the statue arrive they will be sent to you for inspection.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence S. Morris

Lawrence S. Morris
Acting Assistant Chief
Division of Libraries and Institutes

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Room 7000,
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit H

Department of State

In reply refer to
III

June 28, 1946

My dear Mr. Clarke:

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Lawrence S. Morris

Lawrence S. Morris
Acting Assistant Chief
Division of Libraries and Institutes

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Room 1000,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit H

July 12, 1946.

My dear Mr. Morris:

Your letter of June 28th (I L I) has been received.

The Commission of Fine Arts will be pleased to cooperate with the Department of State in the matter of the statue of General Jose Gervasio Artigas, which the Urugayan Government desires to present to the City of Washington. We shall await a photograph of the statue from you.

It will, of course, be necessary to have a suitable pedestal, and if the statue is to be erected on public grounds in the District of Columbia, an Act of Congress will be required.

A Statue of George Washington could be sent "in return to the city of Montevideo" if Congress should approve.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Lawrence S. Morris,
Acting Assistant Chief,
Division of Libraries and Institutes,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit H-1-

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A statue of George Washington could be sent "in return to the city of Montevideo" if Congress should approve.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Glenn D. Clarke,

Secretary.

Mr. Lawrence C. Morris,
Acting Assistant Chief,
Division of Libraries and Institutes,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit M-1-

79TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2505

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2 (legislative day, JULY 29), 1946

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

A BILL

To provide for the extension and completion of the United States Capitol.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the central portion of the Capitol shall be extended, reconstructed, and replaced in substantial accordance with either scheme A or scheme B of the architectural plan submitted by the joint commission of Congress and reported to Congress on March 3, 1905 (House Document Numbered 385, Fifty-eighth Congress, third session), with such modifications as the Commission may determine, excepting so much of said plan as relates to a sculptural group in the pediment of the House wing, and excepting so much of said

plan as relates to the west front of the Capitol and to the two broad flights of terrace steps on the west of the Capitol. The joint commission hereinafter provided for shall determine whether the substance of scheme A or scheme B shall be adopted.

SEC. 2. The extension, reconstruction, and replacement herein authorized shall be carried out under the direction and supervision of a commission, which is hereby created, to be known as the Commission for the Extension and Completion of the United States Capitol, and to be composed of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; the chairman and the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, the minority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Architect of the Capitol. The Architect of the Capitol shall perform such services under this Act as the Commission may direct.

SEC. 3. The construction contemplated under this Act, including the necessary traveling expenses, the letting of contracts, advertising, purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, and accessories in the open market, the employment of all necessary architectural, engineering, and other personal services (all without reference to section 35 of the

Public Buildings Act approved June 25, 1910, as amended, section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended), and the purchase of necessary technical and other books, shall be under the control of the Architect of the Capitol, subject to the direction and supervision of the Commission.

SEC. 4. The total cost of the extension, reconstruction, and replacement and other items enumerated in section 3 herein authorized shall not exceed the sum of $5,000,000 and a contract or contracts for any portion or all of such amount may be entered into in accordance with section 3. A sum not exceeding $5,000,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Appropriations made pursuant to this Act shall be disbursed in the same manner as other appropriations under the Architect of the Capitol through the Division of Disbursements, Treasury Department.

79TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2505

A BILL

To provide for the extension and completion of the United States Capitol.

By Mr. ANDREWS

AUGUST 2 (legislative day, JULY 29), 1946

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

EXTENSION AND COMPLETION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to introduce for appropriate reference a bill providing for the extension and completion of the United States Capitol.

In this connection, let me say that in 1937, under the leadership of the Senator from Texas [Mr. CONNALLY], the bill was passed by the Senate, but it was rejected by the House. However, I understand that now the leadership of the House is committed to the provisions of that bill, which provides for the completion of the front portion of the Capitol, which never has been completed, and which is architecturally incomplete. Anyone can understand that if he will get into an airplane or a blimp and pass over the Capitol and see just exactly how the dome of the Capitol projects out over the front portico. Also, the front is made of standstone, and the pillars are made of sandstone, and it is necessary to keep them constantly painted and repaired. They are entirely different from the beautiful fluted granite columns which front the eastern portion of the Senate wing and the eastern portion of the House wing.

Mr. President, in this connection, I desire to make an explanation of why this condition has existed and how long it has existed. I ask unanimous consent to have the bill, together with a statement in connection with the introduction of the bill, printed at this point in the RECORD as a part of my remarks for future guidance of Congress.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the bill will be received and appropriately referred, and the bill and statement will be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (S. 2505) to provide for the extension and completion of the United States Capitol, introduced by Mr. ANDREWS, was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the central portion of the Capitol shall be extended, reconstructed, and replaced in substantial accordance with either scheme A or scheme B of the architectural plan submitted by the joint commission of Congress and reported to Congress on March 3, 1905 (H. Doc. No. 385, 58th Cong., 3d sess.), with such modifications as the Commission may determine, excepting so much of said plan as relates to the sculptural group in the pediment of the house wing, and excepting so much of said plan as relates to the west front of the Capitol and to the two broad flights of terrace steps on the west of the Capitol. The joint commission hereinafter provided for shall determine whether the substance of scheme A or scheme B shall be adopted.

SEC. 2. The extension, reconstruction, and replacement herein authorized shall be carried out under the direction and supervision of a commission, which is hereby created, to be known as the Commission for the Extension and Completion of the United States Capitol, and to be composed of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; the chairman and the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, the minority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Architect of the Capitol. The Architect of the Capitol shall perform such services under this act as the Commission may direct.

SEC. 3. The construction contemplated under this act, including the necessary traveling expenses, the letting of contracts, advertising, purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, and accessories in the open market, the employment of all necessary architectural, engineering, and other personal services (all without reference to sec. 35 of the Public Buildings Act approved June 25, 1910, as amended, Sec. 3709 of the Revised Statutes, or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended), and the purchase of necessary technical and other books, shall be under the control of the Architect of the Capitol subject to the direction and supervision of the Commission.

SEC. 4. The total cost of the extension, reconstruction and replacement, and other items enumerated in section 3 herein authorized shall not exceed the sum of $5,000,000, and a contract or contracts for any portion or all of such amount may be entered into in accordance with section 3. A sum not exceeding $5,000,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. Appropriations made pursuant to this act shall be disbursed in the same manner as other appropriations under the Architect of the Capitol through the Division of Disbursements, Treasury Department.

The statement presented by Mr. ANDREWS is as follows:

EXTENSION AND COMPLETION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

The United States Capitol Building, as presently constructed, has never been completed architecturally. The north wing of the old building, containing the Supreme Court Room, was constructed during the period 1793 to 1800. The south wing of the old building, containing Statuary Hall, was constructed during the period 1800 to 1811. After the burning of the Capitol in 1814 these sections of the building were reconstructed and the central portion of the old building constructed during the period 1815 to 1829.

The Senate and House wings, containing the present Senate and House Chambers, were not constructed until the period 1851 to 1865, and the old wooden dome was not replaced with the present cast-iron dome until the period 1856 to 1865.

The present Senate and House wings and dome were designed by and constructed under the direction of Thomas U. Walter, who served as Architect of the Capitol during the period 1851 to 1865. Mr. Walter's plans never contemplated leaving the old building in its present state. His plans contemplated extending the old portion of the building eastward and reconstructing in marble this portion of the building which is constructed of Acquia Creek sandstone, a material that is not durable and is disintegrating with the years, notwithstanding the fact that this portion of the building is painted about every 4 years.

In his annual report to Congress November 1, 1863, Mr. Walter stated:

"The eastern portico of the old building will certainly be taken down at no very distant day, and the front be extended eastward, at least to the front line of the wings, so as to complete the architectural group and at the same time afford additional accommodations to the legislative department of the Government. * * *"

In his annual report to Congress the following year, November 1, 1864, Mr. Walter again stated:

"Now that the new dome and the wings of the Capitol are approaching completion it must be apparent to everyone that the extension of the center building on the east to the line of the new wings becomes an architectural necessity. I have, therefore, prepared plans for thus completing the work in harmony with what has already been done and will place them in the Capitol for future reference.

"I do not suppose, nor would I recommend, that any action be taken by Congress in reference to such an improvement until the war is ended and the financial condition of the country becomes settled and prosperous; but inasmuch as it is my purpose to retire from these works as soon as the dome is finished, I deem it incumbent upon me to leave upon record my views as to their final completion."

Numerous efforts have been made during the past 80 years by the three men who have served as Architect of the Capitol since 1865, including the present Architect, to carry into effect Mr. Walter's plans for the extension and completion of the Capitol. Bills have been introduced in the House and Senate for this purpose from time to time and hearings held by the Public Buildings and Grounds Committees of the House and Senate, but the necessary enabling legislation has never been enacted.

Extensive hearings were last held by both the Senate and House committees in 1935 and again by the Senate committee in 1937. On both of these occasions the Senate passed a bill authorizing the extension and completion of the Capitol, but in each instance the bill was not reported out by the House committee.

The bill which I am introducing today provides for the extension and completion of the Capitol. It creates a Joint Congressional Commission under whose direction the work would be accomplished. It provides for the reconstruction of the old portion of the east front of the Capitol in marble, and the extension of this section of the building eastward—the exact distance to be determined by the Commission. The project is to be carried forward in substantial accordance with either scheme A or scheme B of the architectural plan submitted by a previous Joint Commission of Congress in House Document No. 385, Fifty-eighth Congress, March 3, 1905. The bill authorizes an appropriation of $5,000,000 for the project.

In offering this bill, I again wish to emphasize that the extension and completion of the United States Capitol is recommended in order that (1) there may be corrected the architectural defect in the building which exists due to the skirt or base of the dome extending over the east portico in such a manner as to give the appearance of an apparent lack of support to the dome; (2) the Members of the Congress may be provided with much-needed additional accommodations; and (3) a durable construction for the central portion of the building may be provided by the replacement of the existing sandstone with marble.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to introduce a Senate joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The amendment relates to the judiciary. I wish I had time to explain it. I realize that perhaps this may be the last day of the present Congress, and I also realize that probably this is the last day I shall appear on this floor. But this is a matter on which I have worked for several months, and I trust that the joint resolution will be favorably considered by our Judiciary Committee. I feel that if the committee looks into the matter thoroughly, it will recommend the passage of the joint resolution by this body. Its passage and the subsequent ratification of the constitutional amendment will

I-1 [redacted]

COPY

National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Washington

CONFIDENTIAL

Major Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Building
Washington 25, D. C. August 5, 1946.

Subject: Location of Veterans Hospital on Nevius Tract.

My dear Major Clarke:

You are fully conversant with the efforts made by this Commission, in accord with the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts, through a period of 10 years or more to secure legislation for the purchase of the Nevius Tract by the Federal Government. This tract is on the Virginia hills in the extension of the Mall axis, and its acquisition by the Federal Government as an addition to the Arlington Cemetery has been considered essential by both our Commissions in order to protect the background of the Lincoln Mimorial as seen along the Mall axis.

The first effort was for legislation that would authorize the purchase of this tract by itself. Next a bill was introduced authorizeng the Secretary of War to enlarge the Arlington Cemetery by the acquisition of private property within the road system surrounding the cemetery, Fort Myer and the Pentagon Building. This bill, like the former, was passed by the Senate but the House Committee on Military Affairs refused to report it favorably. The latest legislation proposed was a nation-wide bill for the acquisition of a national cemetery in every state, and including authority for the Secretary of War to add to existing national cemeteries. Of course this latter provision would have authorized the acquisition of necessary additions to Arlington Cemetery. This bill also passed the Senate but was defeated in the House.

It has now been brought confidentially to the attention of our Commission that the Veterans Bureau would like to purchase the Nevius Tract for its new Veterans Hospital in this Metropolitan Area. After a very long and exhaustive search, both the Veterans Administration and the National Hospital Board (consisting of the Surgeon Generals of the Army, Navy and Public Health Service) strongly recommend this site and indicate their readiness to consult with the Commission of Fine Arts and our Commission as to the plans for its use. They submit that they feel a plan and design can be worked out with our two Commissions which will minimize any bad effects of the building on this site or actually make them a desirable addition to the central area design.

At its last meeting on August 2nd, our Commission heard representatives of the Veterans Administration and of the General Hospital Board on the subject, and advised them of the opposition both our Commissions have always

Exhibit J

CONFIDENTIAL

Major Clarke

Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

Subject: Location of Veterans Hospital on Bevins Tract.

My dear Major Clarke:

You are fully conversant with the efforts made by this Commission, in accord with the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts, through a period of 10 years or more to secure legislation for the purchase of the Bevins Tract by the Federal Government. This tract is on the Virginia hills in the extension of the Mall axis, and its acquisition by the Federal Government as an addition to the Arlington Cemetery has been considered essential by both our Commissions in order to protect the background of the Lincoln memorial as seen along the Mall axis.

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CONFIDENTIAL

felt to the use of this site for buildings and efforts that have been made to acquire the site for the enlargement of the cemetery. However, our Commission feels that the project merits consideration, in view of the probable impracticability of obtaining the site as an addition to the cemetery before it is built upon by private interests. As the design of whatever is done by the Veterans Administration would evidently be subject to recommendations by the Commission of Fine Arts and by the Planning Commission, it might be that , if a relatively good design could be obtained for the hospital, much smaller than the apartment house group planned by private interests for this same site, the Veterans Administration project would be much less of an evil than what would be built by private enterprise if the Veterans Administration were not allowed to buy the property.

In view of these considerations, the Commission instructed me to arrange a meeting with the Commission of Fine Arts and the joint committee of professional societies on the Natical Capital, or such representatives of either as could be assembled at this time, in order to discuss the proposals of the Veterans Administration and if possible reach mutual agreement as to the attitude that should be taken on the subject. Will you please inform me at your earliest convenience when such a meeting could be held here in Washington. The entire Planning Commission cannot be assembled for the purpose, but it has desegated authority to the Executive Committee to act for it. I imagine that Mr. Zantzinger will not be able to assemble more than two or three of his joint Committee on the National Capital, but I would like to communicate with him on the subject as soon as possible in order that his Committee may be represented to discuss the subject with us.

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Grant, 3rd
Major General, U. S. A., Ret.
Chairman

*If possible by August 13 th.

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In view of these considerations, the Commission instructed me to arrange a meeting with the Commission of Fine Arts and the joint committee of professional societies on the Lafayette Square, or such representatives of either as could be assembled at this time, in order to discuss the proposal of the Veterans Administration and if possible reach mutual agreement as to the attitude that should be taken on the subject. Will you please inform me at your earliest convenience when such a meeting could be held here in Washington. The entire Planning Commission cannot be assembled for the purpose, but it has designated authority to the Executive Committee to act for it. I imagine that Mr. Zantzinger will not be able to assemble more than two or three of his joint Committee on the National Capital, but I would like to communicate with him on the subject as soon as possible in order that his Committee may be represented to discuss the subject with us.

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Grant, 3rd
Major General, U. S. A., Ret.
Chairman

*It possible by August 18 th.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

INTERIOR BUILDING,
Washington, D. C.
August 15, 1946

Gen. Omar N. Bradley
Administrator of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: Location of Veterans' Hospital
on Nevius Tract

My dear General Bradley:

For many years, in fact ever since they were established, the National Commission of Fine Arts, the Joint Committee of Professional Societies on the National Capital, and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission have maintained the policy that no building should be placed on the Virginia hills in the extension of the Mall and Constitution Avenue. The wooded hills in their natural condition are an essential background for the Lincoln Memorial and termination for the vista along the central axis of the National Capital. For some fourteen years the two Commissions have made strong efforts to obtain legislation for the purchase by the Government, as an addition to the Arlington Cemetery, of the land needed to preserve present conditions.

To date, it has not been possible to secure such legislation, and it is known that private parties propose to build on the Nevius Tract and just to the north thereof a very large and bulky hotel-apartment development, which will, of course, be in violation of the aforesaid policy and very detrimental to the central composition of our Capital, on the creation of which so much has been spent both in thought and money through the last half century.

The two Commissions and the Joint Committee appreciate the urgent need for prompt construction of a veterans' hospital conveniently located within the metropolitan area, and believe that it would be better for the Government to own thecritical land and for it to be developed by the Veterans' Administration, provided the latter will seek and approve only a design that will be suited to the site as the background of the Lincoln Memorial and the termination of the Mall vista than to take the risk of a commercial development more harmful to the Government's interests.

Therefore, the representatives of the two Commissions and of the Joint Committee met together Tuesday, August 13, and after discussion of the

J-1

matter with the representatives of the Veterans' Administration and with one another, agreed that no objection would be made to the proposed location of the veterans' hospital on this site provided the foregoing limitations could have your approval, the Commission of Fine Arts would be consulted as to the choice of an architect and as to the plan and design of the buildings as they progress, and that the Veterans' Administration would purchase enough land to prevent any discordant private construction within the critical area.

In order to ascertain whether such a suggestion would have your approval and could be given practical expression, and in order to explain more fully the importance of not permitting any discordant construction in this area, the two Commissions and the Joint Committee asked me to arrange this interview with you as soon as possible. We sincerely hope that it will result in a mutual understanding by which the Veterans' Administration will proceed promptly with the project in a manner that meets its essential practical needs and still does the minimum harm to the Central Area of our Capital, which is unique among the cities of the world.

Cordially yours,

U. S. Grant, 3rd
Major General, U.S.A., Ret.
Chairman

USG:md

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Cordially yours,

U. S. Grant, 3rd
Major General, U.S.A., Ret.
Chairman

USG:md

August 21, 1946.

Major General U. S. Grant, 3rd, U.S.A., Ret.
Chairman, National Capital Park and Planning
Commission,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Grant,

Location of Veterans' Hospital
on Nevius Tract

I am very sorry indeed not to have been able to return to Washington to join you in a meeting with General Bradley. During my absence in Washington at the last meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, my office made commitments for me for the Thursday following which would have made it exceedingly difficult to return to Washington for a meeting.

I understand that Mr. Murphy represented the Commission of Fine Arts and that Mr. Caemmerer was also present. The latter gave me a full report of what transpired and he also sent me a copy of your letter to General Bradley, the contents of which I heartily subscribe to. Since you are closer to the scene than I am, I would appreciate it if you would let me know when this Commission can be of assistance. I want you to know that we stand ready to support this whole matter of providing an appropriate development for the Nevius Tract, if and when it is acquired by the Veterans' Administration.

Cordially yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Exhibit J-2

August 21, 1946.

Major General U. S. Grant, 3rd, U.S.A., Ret.
Chairman, National Capital Park and Planning
Commission,
Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Grant,

Location of Veterans' Hospital
on Nevins Tract

I am very sorry indeed not to have been able to return to Washington to join you in a meeting with General Bradley. During my absence in Washington at the last meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, my office made commitments for me for the Thursday following which would have made it exceedingly difficult to return to Washington for a meeting.

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Cordially yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman